



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

09/477,936 01/05/00 EMERSON

H 17617-46

TM02/1025

ERNEST D. BUFF, ESQ.
ERNEST D. BUFF & ASSOCIATES, LLC
245 SOUTH STREET
MORRISTOWN NJ 07960

EXAMINER

MYHRE, J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2162

DATE MAILED:

10/25/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/477,936

Applicant(s)

Emerson et al

Examiner

James Myhre

Art Unit

2162



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 5, 2000
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 2
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2162

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al (5,917,830) in view of Capek et al (6,094,677).

Claims 1 and 7: Chen discloses a system and method for substituting advertisements during a broadcast, comprising:

- a. Generating, digitizing, and storing a plurality of replacement commercials (e.g. advertisements) for insertion into the broadcast (col 4, lines 39-41 and col 13, lines 15-20);
- b. Marking the broadcast with the start and end times (e.g. duration) of the commercial (col 2, lines 18-21; col 6, line 66 - col 7, line 10; and col 13, lines 15-20);
- c. Receive the broadcast (col 13, lines 57-62);
- d. Detect and read the insertion marker on the broadcast (col 6, lines 1-10 and col 12, lines 36-37);
- e. Select and substitute (insert) a replacement commercial into the broadcast at a point corresponding to the insertion marker (col 8, lines 1-5 and col 14, lines 3-12); and

Art Unit: 2162

f. Repeat the detection and insertion of replacement commercials throughout the broadcast (col 13, line 61 - col 14, line 7).

While Chen uses a network television broadcast as an exemplary use of the invention, it is also disclosed that the invention can be applied “for splicing a secondary packetized data stream, such as a commercial, with a primary packetized data stream” (col 4, lines 7-9) and that the secondary packetized data streams (commercials) being inserted (spliced) “may include digital audio tapes” or “compact audio discs (CDS)” (col 4, lines 39-43) and that “audio only or data only messages may be inserted into the main packetized data stream” (col 4, lines 57-59). The Applicant’s invention is directed to inserting a replacement commercial into a radio broadcast being received via the Internet. The Examiner notes that both radio and television broadcasts may be received via the Internet, and that both are “packetized data streams”. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the packetized data stream into which Chen is inserting commercials could contain either audio/video data (i.e. television) or only audio data (i.e. radio). One would have been motivated to use Chen’s system and method to insert commercials into a radio broadcast in view of his disclosure of inserting audio only data and storing digital audio tapes.

While Chen discloses replacing main stream commercials with the selected commercials (col 14, lines 7-12) and also discloses marking and detecting the start and end times of the insertion points, it is not explicitly disclosed that a comparison is made to determine whether the duration of the replacement commercial corresponds to the duration of the main stream

Art Unit: 2162

commercial being replaced. Capek discloses a similar system and method for inserting commercials into data streams containing content information which also determines whether the duration of the insertion point is sufficiently long to allow insertion of a commercial (col 4, lines 43-51; col 5, lines 23-28; and col 9, lines 57-61). This infers that the duration of each stored replacement commercial is known and used in the determination (comparison). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to compare the durations of the main stream commercial and the replacement commercial when selecting the replacement commercial in the Chen invention. One would have been motivated to compare these durations in order to decrease the likelihood of "blank time" during the reception of the broadcast if the replacement commercial was shorter than the main stream commercial or "overwriting" of the main stream broadcast (content) if the replacement commercial was longer than the main stream commercial.

Claim 2: Chen and Capek disclose a method and system for substituting advertisements during a broadcast as in Claim 1 above. Chen also discloses that the marking of the start and end times of the insertion point is performed by the broadcast station (col 6, line 66 - col 7, line 10 and col 13, lines 15-20).

Claim 3: Chen and Capek disclose a method and system for substituting advertisements during a broadcast as in Claim 2 above. Both references also disclose digitizing the audio stream into sequential packets to allow for presenting a series of packets in the proper order as one

Art Unit: 2162

complete commercial (Chen, Fig. 6a, items A1-A11 and col 14, lines 56-65)(Capek, col 5, lines 14-16; col 7, lines 42-47; and col 8, line 59 - col 9, line 5).

Claims 4-6, 8, and 9: Chen and Capek disclose a method and system for substituting advertisements during a broadcast as in Claims 1, 2, 3, and 7 above. While Chen does not explicitly disclose using consumer demographics to select (target) the replacement commercial, Capek discloses that the information "may be customized to either the user or the material requested, or both" (col 4, lines 43-51) and that "the insertion manager 20 then selects a customized insertion based upon the client profile for the requesting client" (col 12, lines 32-39), or type of information requested (col 12, lines 34-39). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to base the selection of the commercials in Chen upon the consumer's demographic information. One would have been motivated to use this type of selection in order to present commercials which are more pertinent to the consumer, thus increasing the acceptance and interaction with the commercial by the consumer.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Art Unit: 2162

a. Adler et al (6,009,409) discloses a system and method for distributing advertisements in a communications network based on the time available and the duration of the advertisement. This reference could be used in support of a 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection of all pending claims.

b. Montero (6,133,912) discloses a method of delivering advertisements over a communications network by substituting a local advertisement for a network advertisement based at least in part on consumer demographics. This reference could be used in support of a 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection of claims 4-6 and 9 above.

c. Lowe et al (6,298,218) discloses a system for combining sequences of digital advertisements on a radio band broadcast based on consumer demographics. This reference could be used in support of a 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection of claims 3-6 and 9 above.

d. Murray (6,061,659) discloses a system and method for integrating advertisements into a graphical webpage on the Internet by substituting the selected advertisement for the original advertisement. This reference could be used in support of a 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection of claims 3-6 and 9 above.

e. Radiowave.com, Inc. (WO 01/24421) discloses a system and method for substituting advertisements in a broadcast medium based on consumer demographics and duration of advertisements. This reference could be used for a 35 U.S.C. 102 rejection of all pending claims; however, the priority date is after the priority date of the present application. The Examiner notes that the priority date is based on an application filed in the United States (09/408,885) which has

Art Unit: 2162

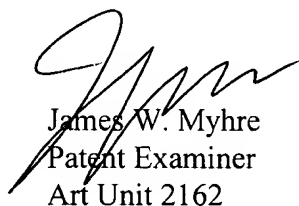
not yet been examined, but which may raise the question of interference if either case is found to contain allowable subject matter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Exr. James W. Myhre whose telephone number is (703) 308-7843. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber, can be reached on (703) 305-8469. The fax phone number for Formal of Official faxes to Technology Center 2100 is (703) 746-7239 or 7238. Draft or Informal faxes for this Art Unit can be submitted to (703) 746-7240. Draft faxes may also be submitted directly to the examiner at (703) 746-5544.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-3900.

JWM
October 23, 2001



James W. Myhre
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2162